



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

LINESVILLE DISTRICT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER SENTENCED ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

ICE special agents seized more than 90 diskettes filled with graphic images

PITTSBURGH– U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced here that a Conneaut/Linesville substitute teacher was sentenced Feb. 2 to five years and three months in federal prison, plus 36 months of supervised probation after pleading guilty Nov. 16 to possession of child pornography.

Chad Shelatz, 29, a local substitute teacher from Linesville was sentenced Wednesday by United States District Judge Sean J. McLaughlin in Erie, Pa., to on one criminal count for possessing of pornographic images of, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, sections 2252.

The sentencing follows an investigation by ICE special agents operating under the agency's Operation Predator national anti-child sex exploitation initiative.

The investigation was initiated in January 2003 after special agents interviewed Shelatz while following an investigative tip that he had downloaded child pornography from the Internet.

Shelatz admitted to paying for and downloading images of child pornography. ICE special agents seized computer hardware and software from Shelatz's residence for forensic analysis. Forensic experts found that Shelatz's computer and more than 90 diskettes contained images of child pornography.

“It is chilling and disturbing to know that a person responsible for the development of children would engage in this type of activity,” said Resident Agent-in-Charge Richard Boronyak of the Pittsburgh ICE office, which oversees investigations in Linesville. “Sexual predators should know that there's no hiding behind the anonymity of the Internet. We're watching the cyber-playgrounds they're stalking.”

The arrest and conviction of Shelatz comes under Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 4,900 individuals, including 77 in Pennsylvania.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or www.cybertipline.com.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.